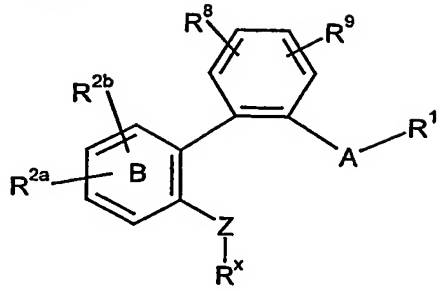
CLAIMS

1. A compound of formula (I):



(I)

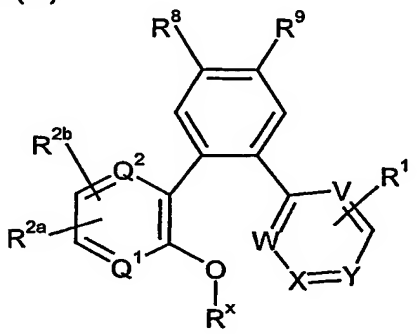
wherein:
A represents an optionally substituted aryl, or an optionally substituted 5- or 6- membered heterocyclyl ring, or an optionally substituted bicyclic heterocyclyl group;
B represents a phenyl or pyridyl ring;
Z represents O, S, SO, or SO_2;
R^1 represents CO_2R^4, CN, $CONR^5R^6$, $CH_2CO_2R^4$, optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted alkenyl, optionally substituted SO_2alkyl, $SO_2NR^5R^6$, $NR^5CONR^5R^6$, COalkyl, 2H-tetrazol-5-yl-methyl, optionally substituted bicyclic heterocycle or optionally substituted heterocyclyl;
R^{2a} and R^{2b} independently represents hydrogen, halogen, optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted alkoxy, CN, SO_2alkyl, SR^5, NO_2, optionally substituted aryl, $CONR^5R^6$ or optionally substituted heteroaryl;
R^x represents optionally substituted alkyl wherein 1 or 2 of the non-terminal carbon atoms are optionally replaced by a group independently selected from NR^4, O and SO_n, wherein n is 0, 1 or 2: or R^x represents optionally substituted CQ^aQ^b-heterocyclyl, optionally substituted CQ^aQ^b-bicyclic heterocyclyl or optionally substituted CQ^aQ^b-aryl;
R^4 represents hydrogen or an optionally substituted alkyl;
R^5 represents hydrogen or an optionally substituted alkyl;
R^6 represents hydrogen or optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted heteroaryl, optionally substituted SO_2aryl, optionally substituted SO_2alkyl, optionally substituted SO_2heteroaryl, CN, optionally substituted CQ^aQ^baryl, optionally substituted CQ^aQ^bheteroaryl or COR^7;
R^7 represents hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted heteroaryl or optionally substituted aryl;
R^8 and R^9 independently represent hydrogen, chloro, fluoro, CF_3, C_{1-3}alkoxy or C_{1-3}alkyl;
Q^a and Q^b are independently selected from hydrogen and CH_3;
wherein when A is a 6-membered ring the R^1 substituent and phenyl ring are attached to carbon atoms 1,2-, 1,3- or 1,4- relative to each other, and when A is a five-membered ring or bicyclic heterocyclyl group the R^1 substituent and phenyl ring are attached to substitutable carbon atoms 1,2- or 1,3- relative to each other;

and derivatives thereof;
provided that the compound is not 2-benzyloxy[1,1';2',1"]terphenyl-4"-carboxylic acid.

2. A compound according to claim 1 wherein when A is a 6-membered ring, the R^1 substituent and phenyl ring are attached to carbon atoms 1,2-, or 1,3- relative to each other.

3. A compound according to claim 1 or claim 2 wherein A is phenyl, pyridyl, or pyrazinyl.

4. A compound of formula (Ia):



(Ia)

wherein:
W, X, and Y each represents CR^{12} or N;
V represents CR^1, CR^{12} or N;
wherein at least two of W, X, Y or V is CR^{12}; and R^{12} is independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, CN, optionally substituted CO_2C_{1-6}alkyl, $CONR^5R^6$, NR^5R^6, optionally substituted NR^5COC_{1-6}alkyl, optionally substituted $NR^5COphenyl$, optionally substituted $NR^5COpiperidinyl$, optionally substituted $NR^5COheterocyclyl$, optionally substituted $NR^5SO_2C_{1-6}$alkyl, OH, optionally substituted OC_{1-6}alkyl, optionally substituted C_{1-6}alkyl and $NR^{10}R^{11}$;
Q^1 and Q^2 each represents CH, or one of Q^1 and Q^2 is N and the other is CH;
R^1 is CO_2H, optionally substituted $CONHSO_2aryl$, CH_2CO_2H, SO_2NHCOR^7, SO_2NHCOC_{1-6}alkyl or tetrazolyl and is positioned 1,2-, or 1,3- relative to the phenyl ring;
R^{2a} and R^{2b} are independently selected from hydrogen, halo, or CF_3;
R^x represents optionally substituted C_{1-8}alkyl, or R^x represents optionally substituted CQ^aQ^b-heterocyclyl or optionally substituted CQ^aQ^b-phenyl wherein Q^a and Q^b are independently selected from hydrogen and CH_3;
R^4 represents hydrogen or an optionally substituted C_{1-6}alkyl;
R^5 represents hydrogen or an optionally substituted C_{1-6}alkyl;
R^6 represents hydrogen or an optionally substituted C_{1-6}alkyl, optionally substituted SO_2phenyl, optionally substituted SO_2heterocyclyl group, CN, optionally substituted CH_2phenyl or COR^7;
R^7 represents hydrogen, optionally substituted heteroaryl or optionally substituted phenyl;
R^8 and R^9 independently represent hydrogen, chloro, fluoro, CF_3, C_{1-3}alkoxy or C_{1-3}alkyl;
and

R^{10} and R^{11} together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a morpholine ring, a 5- or 6-membered lactam ring or a 5- or 6-membered cyclic sulphonamide, and derivatives thereof.

5. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein R^x is optionally substituted C_{1-8}alkyl, optionally substituted CH_2phenyl, CH_2pyridyl, or CH_2thienyl.

6. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 5 wherein R^{2b} is positioned 1,4- relative to the Z substituent and 1,3- relative to the phenyl ring.

7. A compound selected from the compounds of Examples 1-90 or a derivative thereof.

8. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 7 or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof together with a pharmaceutical carrier and/or excipient.

9. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 7 or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof for use as an active therapeutic substance.

10. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 7 or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof for use in the treatment of a condition which is mediated by the action of PGE_2 at EP_1 receptors.

11. A method of treating a human or animal subject suffering from a condition which is mediated by the action of PGE_2 at EP_1 receptors which comprises administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 7 or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

12. A method of treating a human or animal subject suffering from a pain, or an inflammatory, immunological, bone, neurodegenerative or renal disorder, which method comprises administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 7 or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

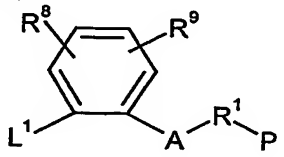
13. A method of treating a human or animal subject suffering from inflammatory pain, neuropathic pain or visceral pain which method comprises administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 7 or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

14. Use of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 7 or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a condition which is mediated by the action of PGE_2 at EP_1 receptors.

15. Use of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 7 or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment or prevention of a condition such as a pain, or an inflammatory, immunological, bone, neurodegenerative or renal disorder.

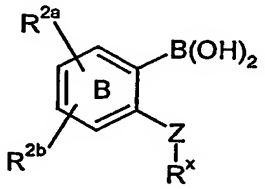
16. Use of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 7 or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment or prevention of a condition such as inflammatory pain, neuropathic pain or visceral pain.

17. A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 1 or a derivative thereof comprising:
reacting a compound of formula (IV):



(IV)

wherein R^8, R^9, A, and R^1 are as hereinbefore defined above for a compound of formula (I), L^1 is a leaving group and P is an optional protecting group;
with a compound of formula (III):



(III)

wherein R^{2a}, R^{2b}, B, Z, and R^x are as hereinbefore defined above for a compound of formula (I);
and where required converting:
one group A to another group A, and/or
one group R^x to another group R^x;
and where required carrying out the following optional steps in any order:
effecting deprotection; and/or
converting one group R^1 to another group R^1; and/or
forming a derivative of the compound of formula (I) so formed.

18. A compound of formula (I) or a derivative thereof, according to claim 1, substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to any one of the Examples.